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MAY 13 1944

EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Personnel

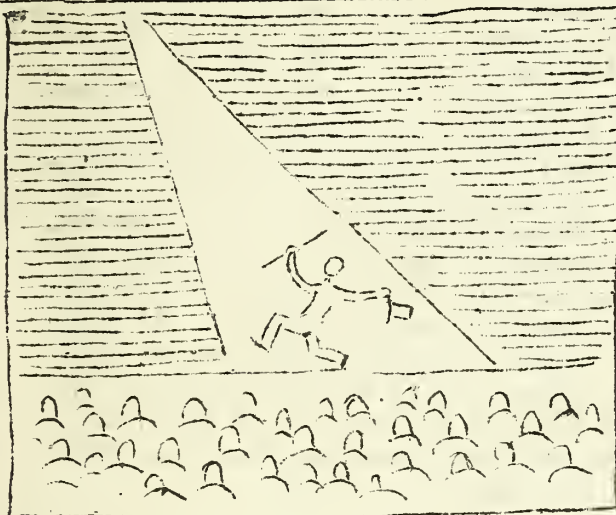
Division of Personnel Relations and Safety

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vol. 1

May 10, 1944

No. 23



DRAMATICALLY SPEAKING

The Washington summer heat season has opened with a bang and likewise the Agricultural Players Group. We had a fine gathering at our first meeting and have discovered that the Department is saturated with talent which must NOT go to seed.

Present plans for organization are going full speed ahead but not so fast that you can't jump aboard--and we'll have the welcome mat all dusted off! We're battling time like everyone else now; the opening play will coincide with the June War Bond Drive, so there jes' ain't no time to be a-frittered away.

The next meeting-(and count this an engraved invitation)-will be Tuesday,

May 16 at 5:30 in the Agricultural Auditorium and since Tuesday seems to be a good available night, it has been selected for the regular meeting night--same time, same place, same station.

It takes heaps more than just those people seen by an audience to do what we're planning. We need seamstresses, electricians, carpenters, writers, musicians, dancers, designers, painters-(plain and fancy)-stage managers, make-up artists, actors, directors, and-- well in fact everyone who is or has been interested in any of the arts or crafts will find a niche just his or her size in this theatre group.

Soooooooo hie yourself down to the auditorium next Tuesday and join forces. We're just beginning our theatre season and all our oomph will go toward seeing that Washington has no dirth of THEATRE this summer!

BUREAU ACTIVITIES

On April 26, members of the Board of Governors of the Solicitor's Office 1944 Summer Bowling League were elected as follows: Nettie V. Dunavan, Chairman; Howard Rooney; Reynolds Florence; and Fred P. Herzer, Secretary. The League has set up a schedule of games running from May 15 till July 24.

If your bureau has an activity that you would like to have publicized, let us know. If you are interested in organizing an activity on a Department basis, call ext. 3105.

LET'S DANCE

Another War Savings Stamp

Dance will be held in the new ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel for Dept. of Agriculture employees on May 15, from nine til twelve. Come stag or drag, formal or informal. There will be plenty of officers and enlisted men present from the nearby camps, so, ladies, if you don't have an escort, come anyway.

There will be no admission charge, but tickets will be required for all girls. Gentlemen, if you're bringing a date, be sure she has a ticket.

Although the dance is free, War Savings Stamps will be available for purchase. Since the dance is an expression of appreciation for our contributions to the War Bond program, all employees are encouraged to buy stamps at the dance.

The music will be furnished by the Naval Air Station Band from Patuxent, Md. An attractive singer--maybe two--will be on the program. So for an evening of gaiety join your fellow employees at the Shoreham on the 15th. A limited supply of tickets is available; see your bureau contact officer.

STATE SOCIETIES

May 13 - 10 til 1 - Alabama Dance at the Mayflower

North Carolina Dance at the Shoreham
May 24 - 10 til 1 - Wisconsin Dance at the Shoreham

6:30 - New York Annual Supper at the Fairfax Hotel. For reservations call GE. 4157.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Are you keeping up with your soldier overseas? Along with the tough battles he is fighting, the grueling hardships he is experiencing he is also seeing the world. Whether he is in Burma or Italy or England he is learning something of the people and their culture, the geography and the history, the treasures in the art galleries and the strange merchandise in the markets. He enjoys writing to you about what he is seeing and will be eager to talk to you about it when he returns. If you are a well informed correspondent and listener, he will be proud of you. He will have no reason to feel that, in this war experience, he has grown and you have not.

ANOTHER HERO

Staff Sergeant Arthur L. Varnau, a twenty-year-old gunner who was a messenger in the Ofc. of Distribution before going on military furlough, was recently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "exceptional courage" during a recent bombing attack on German war industries and was awarded the Air Medal for destroying an enemy fighter plane that attacked his Fortress formation. He carried on the fight single-handed from his plane and saved the lives of two wounded crew members by applying tourniquets.

YOU CAN HELP PRICE CONTROL

CHECK SELLING PRICES WITH CEILING

PRICES WHEN YOU SHOP!

ELECTION

Efficiency ratings are important to every employee of the Department. They govern, in part, our selection for grade promotions--or our separation from the service in a reduction in force. They are a major factor in determining how high our salaries can rise in our present grades. They say, in effect, that we are worth only the minimum rate, up to the middle rate, or up to the top rate in our grade, or that we should be reduced in grade or separated for inefficiency.

Because efficiency ratings are so important, it is necessary that they be accurate reflections of the facts of work performance. If they do not truly reflect the facts of performance, they are unjust both to the employee and to the Department. Since some ratings may be inaccurate, we need an appeal procedure. While the established bureau efficiency rating committees normally hear and settle appeals, we also need to have a top, department-wide appeal board to which employees may, if they wish, submit their efficiency ratings for final evaluation and, if justified, correction. The USDA Board of Review on Efficiency Ratings is that final board.

On Friday, June 2, 1944, an election will be held to select an employee of the Department to serve as the employee member of the USDA Board of Review. The person who is elected to fill that position will be our representative on the Board. His chief interest will be to insure that

MOTHERS' AID SERVICE

The American Women's Voluntary Service is offering to help government girls who are on "Maternity Leave" from their jobs, or wives of young government men on small salaries. These girls usually can stay in the hospital for only 5 to 8 days and many need some help upon their return home. Only normal maternity cases will be considered.

The A.W.V.S. Volunteers will have received training for their duties under the direction of a registered nurse, and are mature women who have had experience for this service. Since the Volunteers are not professional workers, but are rendering friendly service, they cannot be held responsible for possible accidents.

The Volunteer would spend 2 to 2½ hours a day for a period of 8 to 10 days, taking care of the mother and baby. Only girls who have no relatives to care for them during their convalescence will be considered for this service. If you are interested in this type of service, see your bureau contact officer.

all employees who appeal their ratings to the Board are given fair and impartial treatment.

Nominations of candidates for this election will be open throughout the week May 17 through May 23. You will receive a call for nominations from the Employee Election Committee on May 16 giving instructions governing the submission of nominations. Let's nominate good people for this important job!

HOUSING INFORMATION

For Sale--Large, well-built, modern country home; several out buildings; approximately four acres of excellent land; shade trees, fruit trees; lots of lawn and shrubbery. About 20 miles from Department, ten miles from Beltsville. Price and terms very attractive. For details write J. R. Frazer, 7415 Cornell Ave. University City 5, Missouri.

Rooms for Rent--

One double room, one single room in private home. \$25.00 for one person, \$35.00 for two. Call Mr. Rabenhorst after six at North 6104.

Apartment to Share--

1600-16th St., N.W., one room apt. dinette, kitchen, bath, large closet. One roommate, \$25.00 rent. Call Elaine Gainesburg, ext. 2709.

At present there are some unfurnished apartments available at Fairlington, Va. To obtain one of these apartments you must be certified by your personnel officer.

For further housing information, see your bureau contact officer or call extension 3105.

Home to Share--

Mr. W. L. Neubrach would like to share his home at 3619 - 26th St. N.E. with a dignified married couple. He has a 9 yr. old son. In return for the wife's keeping up the home, he is offering this arrangement rent-free. Current expenses would be shared. Mr. Neubrach may be reached on RE 7500, ext. 76546 or home phone - DU 0534.

CAR POOL

Want Rides--

Mrs. Weinberg, Brentwood Village, N.E., ext. 5473.

Mrs. Graff, 1736 Irving, N.W. ext. 5215

Miss Bronstein, 300 Emerson St., N.W., ext. 4994

Miss Clark, 4310-4th St. N., Buckingham, Va. ext. 4785

Mrs. McAlexander, 7303 Alaska, N.W., ext. 5603

Miss Ehrig, Conn. Ave. & Military Road, ext. 2245

Mrs. Duval, 2400 Ft. Scott Dr. S., Arlington, Va., ext. 2684

Mr. Rice, 2100 Eye St. N. W. ext. 2385

Mrs. Ellis, 318 East-West Highway, Chevy Chase, Md., ext. 5485

Mr. Makassian, Calvert & Conn. N.W., ext. 2909

Mr. Cook, 1414 Saratoga Ave. N.E., ext. 2702

Mrs. E. Z. Hale, 2268 N. Upton St., Arlington, Va. ext. 4463

Mrs. Ward, 2428 No. Potomac, Arlington, Va., ext. 5606

Want Riders--

Miss Morrison, Washington Hwy., Alexandria, Va., ext. 2819

Mr. Meyer, leaves Shoreham Hotel at 7:30 A.M., ext. 6125

Mr. Seidell, W. Falls Church, Va., ext. 4057

Miss Rest, W. Capitol & Adams, ext. 6101

A. T. Thompson, 4650 - 31st St., S., Arlington, Va., ext. 2560

Eugene W. Boyol, RFD 4, Box 375, Alexandria, Va., ext. 4243

Want Rotaters--

Mr. Chaplino, 3812 Albermarle, N.W. ext. 3648

Mr. McDonald, 2720 Terrace Rd., S.E. ext. 5606